

52. (Amended) A method for processing telephone numbers, comprising the steps of:
- monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;
- receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information;
- producing, responsive to the called party information, a list of telephone numbers, comprising the use of a telephone number database,
- wherein the telephone number database comprises any of information on valid area codes, information on the geographical areas associated with valid area codes, information on valid exchanges within valid area codes, and information on geographical areas associated with valid exchanges; and
- selecting, responsive to the producing step, a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.

***Remarks***

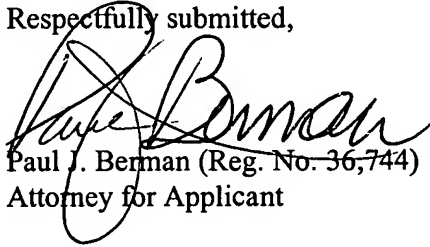
This Preliminary Amendment cancels from this application claims that have issued in U.S. Patent No. 6,345,095 (Serial No. 09/291,213) of which this application is a continuation-in-part, and assures that the remaining claims in this application are in proper form. This Preliminary Amendment also changes the title of the application to conform more closely to the invention. No new matter is added by this Preliminary Amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the title and claims by these preliminary amendments. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

We believe that no extensions of time are required in connection with this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0740 referencing docket number 25965.101-US03.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Berman", is written over the typed name and title.

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**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**

TITLE:

TELEPHONE NUMBER AREA CODE ~~[PRE]~~ PROCESSOR

CLAIMS:

11. (Amended) ~~[The]~~ An apparatus for processing telephone numbers ~~[of claim 10]~~, comprising:  
an area code processor having  
means, responsive to called party information, for producing a list of  
telephone numbers, the list-producing means comprising  
[wherein the] a telephone number database comprising  
[comprises] dialing rules; and  
a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code processor,  
having  
means for monitoring call initiation signals,  
means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving called party  
information, and  
means, responsive to the producing means, for selecting a target  
telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.
12. (Amended) ~~[The]~~ An apparatus for processing telephone numbers ~~[of claim 10]~~, comprising:  
an area code processor having  
means, responsive to called party information, for producing a list of  
telephone numbers, comprising  
[wherein the] a telephone number database comprising  
[comprises] a calling party dialing list; and

a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code processor,

having

means for monitoring call initiation signals,

means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving called party

information, and

means, responsive to the producing means, for selecting a target

telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.

13. (Amended) ~~[The]~~ An apparatus for processing telephone numbers ~~[of claim 1]~~, ~~[further]~~  
comprising:

an area code processor having

means, responsive to called party information, for producing a list of

telephone numbers;

a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code processor,

having

means for monitoring call initiation signals,

means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving called party

information, and

means, responsive to the producing means, for selecting a target

telephone number from the list of telephone numbers; and

means for associating identification information with the calling party.

16. (Amended) ~~[The]~~ An apparatus for processing telephone numbers ~~[of claim 10]~~, comprising:  
an area code processor having

means, responsive to called party information, for producing a list of  
telephone numbers, the list-producing means comprising

[wherein the] a telephone number database comprising

[comprises] any of information on valid area codes,  
information on the geographical areas associated with valid  
area codes, information on valid exchanges within valid area  
codes, and information on geographical areas associated with  
valid exchanges; and

a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code processor,  
having

means for monitoring call initiation signals,

means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving called party  
information, and

means, responsive to the producing means, for selecting a target  
telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.

23. (Amended) An apparatus for processing telephone numbers, comprising:

an area code processor, and

a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code  
[pre]processor, having

means for monitoring call initiation signals, and

means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving called party  
information and calling party identification information,

wherein the area code processor comprises means, responsive to the called party identification information, for producing a target telephone number

47. (Amended) ~~[The]~~ A method for processing telephone numbers ~~[of claim 46]~~,  
comprising the steps of:

monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;  
receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information;  
producing, responsive to the called party information, a list of telephone numbers,  
comprising the use of a telephone number database,

wherein the telephone number database comprises dialing rules; and  
selecting, responsive to the producing step, a target telephone number from the list of  
telephone numbers.

48. (Amended) ~~[The]~~ A method for processing telephone numbers ~~[of claim 46]~~,  
comprising the steps of:

monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;  
receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information;  
producing, responsive to the called party information, a list of telephone numbers,  
comprising the use of a telephone number database,

wherein the telephone number database comprises a calling party dialing list;  
and  
selecting, responsive to the producing step, a target telephone number from the list of

telephone numbers.

49. (Amended) [The] A method for processing telephone numbers [~~of claim 37~~], [further] comprising the [step] steps of:

monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;

receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information;

producing, responsive to the called party information, a list of telephone numbers;

selecting, responsive to the producing step, a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers; and

associating identification information with the calling party.

52. (Amended) [The] A method for processing telephone numbers [~~of claim 46~~], comprising the steps of:

monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;

receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information;

producing, responsive to the called party information, a list of telephone numbers,

comprising the use of a telephone number database,

wherein the telephone number database comprises any of information on valid area codes, information on the geographical areas associated with valid area codes, information on valid exchanges within valid area codes, and information on geographical areas associated with valid exchanges; and

selecting, responsive to the producing step, a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.